

Wisconsin Farm to School

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Wednesday | March 12, 2014

In today's Wisconsin Farm to School newsletter, you will find:

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Farm to School Spotlight

Big congratulations to Rose Ann Boushele and the Omro School District

Re:TH!NK Winnebago County, the Healthy Living coalition and a project of the Winnebago County Health Department, is honored to occasionally give a "fire up" award to an outstanding partner and is thrilled to award a "fire up" award to Rose Ann Boushele from the Omro School District.

"Farm to School programs are a great way to help our young people to make healthy choices; however, they require a new way of thinking. Rose Ann has been very supportive, flexible, and willing to do whatever it takes to make our programs successful. She truly lives the mantra, "we'll find a way to make it work," and that has made our efforts much easier for the students of the Omro School District. We love partnering with Rose Ann and look forward to many more future farm to school programs in Omro!" – Sarah Wright, Public Nurse and coordinator of re:TH!NK Winnebago, Winnebago County Health Dept.



Photo: Rose Ann Boushele, Omro School District, and Sarah Wright, Re:TH!NK Winnebago

Do you know someone who ought to be featured in the Farm to School Spotlight? Is your school doing something that deserves the spotlight? **Please send us information and photos to be featured in the Farm to School spotlight.**

General Updates

Does this warm weather give you the itch to garden?

Check out the WI School Garden Initiative's [March newsletter](#)! It's themed with green for St. Patty's Day and for gardening's connection to Green and Healthy Schools!

New Farm to School curriculum puts high school students in charge of tapping into healthy, local foods

The new [Farm to School Youth Leadership Curriculum](#) released today connects high school students with local foods and farmers, while giving them a leadership role in developing their school's Farm to School program. The first of its type, the curriculum was developed for 11th and 12th grade students by the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP) and takes students through the tasks of evaluating school lunch menus, partnering with food service staff, talking to farmers and sourcing local foods—all while fulfilling national and Minnesota curriculum requirements.

[The White House and USDA Announce School Wellness Standards](#)

First Lady Michelle Obama and U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announce proposed school wellness standards and roll out of breakfast and lunch programs for schools that serve low income communities. WASHINGTON, Feb. 25, 2014 – Today, First Lady Michelle Obama joins U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack to announce proposed guidelines for local school wellness policies. The bipartisan Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 mandated that the USDA set guidelines for what needed to be included in local school wellness policies in areas such as setting goals for and physical activity, informing parents about content of the policy and implementation, and periodically assessing progress and sharing updates as appropriate. As part of local school wellness policies, the proposed guidelines would ensure that foods and beverages marketed to children in schools are consistent with the recently-released Smart Snacks in School standards. Ensuring that unhealthy food is not marketed to children is one of the First Lady's top priorities; that is why it is so important for schools to reinforce the importance of healthy choices and eliminate marketing of unhealthy products.

[New Wallace Center Report “Food Hubs: Solving Local”](#)

[Arlington, VA] The nationwide growth of regional food systems takes another forward step with today's release of the Wallace Center report “Food Hubs: Solving Local”. The report presents five case studies that show how small-farm aggregators and food retailers and distributors are teaming up to bring local food into larger-scale wholesale channels.

Wallace Center for Food Systems and Food Security



Conference Registration Now Open

[Registration](#) for the [7th National Farm to Cafeteria Conference: Powering Up](#) is OPEN! More than 1,000 farm to cafeteria practitioners and stakeholders will be joining the [National Farm to School Network](#) in Austin, Texas, April 15-18 for three days of inspiring field trips, workshops, speakers and networking — will you be one of them?

Extension Professionals + USDA Farm to School Grant Program

Thursday, March 13, 12:00 p.m. EST

During this webinar, Cooperative Extension professionals from Nevada and Wisconsin will share their experience supporting USDA Farm to School Grant projects. Topics include supporting local food procurement and conducting educational programs through school gardening activities. To participate in this webinar, please register by clicking [here](#). Both an Internet connection and telephone line are required in order to view and listen to the webinar. Sound will not come through your computer speakers. The webinar will be recorded and available via the [Farm to School website](#) within 1-2 weeks of initial viewing. For questions, please contact matthew.benson@fns.usda.gov.

USDA Bi-Monthly Webinar Series - "[How to Sell Domestic Foods to the USDA](#)"

March 20

From January to June 2014, the USDA Farm to School Program will host two webinars per month on various aspects of local procurement. The webinars will be held at 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month, and will include guest speakers from state agencies and school districts. For more information and to register, please visit the [webinar series website](#).

[Adding Value to Farm Products](#)

Monday, March 17th - 7pm EST

Farm Commons

Although starting a processing operation, improving packaging, and developing new products are great ways to make the farm more profitable, these activities have a huge impact on legal parameters. Employment laws, liability potential, state/federal regulations, and tax factors all change when a farm begins to process product. Farms relying on cottage food laws should make sure to attend- we'll talk about what these laws do not do to protect farms.

[Healthy Food For All Summit – Neenah, Wisconsin](#)

Please join us on Thursday, March 27, 2014 at the Bridgewood Resort and Conference Center in Neenah, Wisconsin. An evening pre-summit on Wednesday, March 26, 2014 will be offered at the same location from 6:00-9:00pm.

[4th Annual Community Initiatives in Sustainable Agriculture Conference – Appleton, WI](#)

The **Community Initiatives in Sustainable Agriculture (CISA)** Conference is being held April 11-12, 2014 at Lawrence University in Appleton, WI. The conference is aimed at

pursuit.

Food Sovereignty Summit – Green Bay, WI

Please join the Oneida Nation, First Nationals Development Institute, the Intertribal Agriculture Council, and Northeast Wisconsin Technical College on April 14-17 at the Radisson Hotel in downtown Green Bay. This is a forum for sharing and collaboration to build healthy food systems within our communities.

School Garden and Garden Based Education Training (Wisconsin)

This spring, in partnership with Community GroundWorks of Madison, Wellspring Education Center and Organic Farm will be hosting free school gardens and garden based education trainings for teachers as well as interested community members. **Continuing Education Units available for early childhood educators.** While free, spots are limited. Please RSVP to wellspringeducation@gmail.com or by calling (847) 946-5565. **Tuesday, May 6th – 6 to 8 pm and Thursday, March 6th – 6 to 8 pm events.**

Location: Wellspring Education Center and Organic Farm

4382 Hickory Rd. West Bend, WI 53090

www.wellspringinc.org

Farm to School Job Openings

Position: Ag Marketing Consultant – Local Foods Specialist - LTE

- Agency: Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection (DATCP)
- Division: Agricultural Development
- Hours: 40 hours per week based in Madison office
- Pay: Up to \$16.90/hour

Applications due: Monday, March 17, 12:00 PM

Send resume and cover letter to: Paige Rusch, paige.rusch@wi.gov

Any questions about the position duties can be directed to Teresa Engel and Lois Federman at teresa.engel@wi.gov or lois.federman@wi.gov.

FoodCorps Service Member Applications Open

Application deadline: March 30, 2014

FoodCorps is recruiting for the next class of members, including Michigan members! The program is proud to announce that, pending funding, they will be expanding to Georgia and Washington D.C. For more information and to apply, click the link above.

Farm to School Job Openings

USDA Announces Fiscal Year 2015 Farm to School Grants to Continue Efforts to Increase Local Foods in Eligible Schools

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced the release of a request for applications for the third round of USDA's [Farm to School](#) grants, including the addition of a new funding track. These grants help eligible schools improve the health and wellbeing of their students and connect with local agricultural producers.

School Grants for Healthy Kids

Deadline: May 2, 2014

Action for Healthy Kids welcomes schools to apply for 2014 -2015 [School Grants for Healthy Kids](#). The grants are funded by our partners CSX Transportation, Kellogg Company, Kellogg's Corporate Citizenship Fund (and more!) and will range from 500 to 5,000 dollars. The funding is designed to help schools create or expand school breakfast programs, pilot universal breakfast programs or enhance their physical activity programs. If you're interested for your school, attend an hour-long [introductory webinar](#) Thursday, **March 20, 2014** at 3 p.m. ET, 2 p.m. CT, 1 p.m. MT and noon PT to get tips for applying. You can [register](#) now. [Archived sessions](#) also will be available. Once you have all the information you need, [start the application process](#) and submit before the **May 2, 2014** deadline.

Wallace Center at Winrock International Announces [Food Hub Development Grant Program Request for Applications](#)

Deadline: March 30, 2014

The Wallace Center is pleased to announce its newest effort to support the work of food hubs nationwide, **Strengthening Small-Scale Sustainable Farming and Local Food Systems by Accelerating Food Hub Development**. The grant program will build on the significant work of Wallace's [National Good Food Network](#) (NGFN) initiative to support food hub development and build capacity among small and mid-size farms throughout the U.S. to access regional markets, with an additional intention on building capacity among minority and female farmers.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, contact DATCP's Sarah Elliott at 608-224-5046 or sarah.elliott@wisconsin.gov.



STAY CONNECTED:

